

# PRESS RELEASE



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## Jewish Heritage Foundation Announces Grants to Organizations Serving Older Adults

### *Focus on Projects and Programs Impacting Older Adults Is a First for the Foundation*

**KANSAS CITY, MO:** The Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City is pleased to announce 11 grants totaling \$405,038 as a part of its inaugural 2007 Older Adult Grantmaking Program. The grants represent the Foundation's first investments over the next five years to support organizations assisting older adults and develop long-term solutions for an underserved population in the Kansas City metropolitan area.

"We are delighted and proud to make these grants to the nonprofit sector serving older adults," said Board President Daniel Scharf, M.D. "Our new focus on older adult programs is a strategic effort to help identify critical solutions and improve the quality of life for a burgeoning population in our community."

The 2007 grants represent a variety of nonprofit organizations in the five-county, bi-state Greater Kansas City area and address critical areas including transportation, housing, and community connection. The largest grant is \$75,000 to the Center for Practical Bioethics for a comprehensive plan to create a care and services component of their Aging in Place model. Several grants will support the expansion of services and capacity while other grants will help develop strategic plans and best practices for future metropolitan infrastructure needs.



Submitted photo: Dr. Daniel L. Scharf and Ellen Kort present a \$75,000 grant to Myra J. Christopher and John G. Carney from the Center for Practical Bioethics.

The decision to prioritize older adult programs came after a strategic planning effort in 2006 by the Board of Directors. Research showed that in the Kansas City area a small fraction of philanthropic dollars are awarded to nonprofits serving older adults. For example, of the 16 agencies and funders surveyed, only two specified older adults as a priority area. In 2007, three percent of United Way's allocation was targeted to senior services.



Ellen Kort and Dr. Daniel L. Scharf present a \$40,000 Grant to Joe Bisogno and Jim Courtney, Mr. Goodcents Foundation.

Research and demographic information show a growing demand for services and programs targeted at older adults.

According to the United Way of Greater Kansas City, one in 10 (11 percent) of the current population in the six-county region is currently age 65 and older.

This number is expected to double in the next 20 years. Nationally, more than 8,000 people in the U.S. will turn 60 each day for the next 19 years, according to the Foundation on Aging. The implications of this “silver tsunami” on housing, health care, transportation, workforce demands and other needs will be astounding.

The Older Adult Grantmaking Program represents 17 percent of the Foundation’s \$2.6 million in contributions made in 2007.

Approximately two-thirds of its total contributions are allocated to program, core agency support and congregational grants in the Kansas City Jewish community. The rest is dedicated to general community organizations.

Below is a list of the 2007 inaugural older adult grant recipients, the grant amount and a brief description of the program:

**Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St Joseph \$15,000**  
Funds to develop the capacity of the Senior Express Program, a volunteer transportation program

**Center for Practical Bioethics \$75,000**  
Funds to develop a comprehensive plan to establish a collaborative Aging in Place model for the Greater Kansas City region

**Foundation on Aging \$30,000**  
Funds to expand the Supporting Caregivers of Older Adults Initiative, designed to assist older adults remain independent by leveraging employer resources and communication technologies for family caregivers

**Friends of Johnson County Nursing Home/Geriatric Education Resource & Training Institute (GERTI) \$52,888**

Funds to expand the capacity of the Geriatric Education Resource & Training Institute (GERTI); subsidize registration at 2008 ASA/NCOA (American Society on Aging/National Council on Aging) 2008 National Conference; and organizational development consultation services

**Harvesters – The Community Food Network \$40,000**  
Funds to expand the Senior Mobile Food Pantry Program

**Kansas City Community Gardens \$15,000**  
Funds to support the Self-Help Gardening Outreach Program for low-income seniors

**Mr. Goodcents Foundation \$40,000**  
Funding for a planning grant to develop the infrastructure for a “Senior Mobility Network”

**NorthWest Communities Development Corp. \$52,000**  
Funds to build the capacity of the Northwest Independence Senior Program, and to subsidize registration at the 2008 ASA/NCOA 2008 National Conference

**Shepherd’s Center of Kansas City Central \$8,150**  
Partial funding related to merger costs with Shepherd’s Center of Shawnee Mission and to support the agency’s strategic planning efforts.

**Shepherd’s Center of Kansas City Kansas \$50,000**  
To fund the planning phase of a Next Chapter™/Civic Engagement Initiative for Wyandotte County

**University of Missouri-Kansas City \$27,000**  
Funding to support a geriatric workforce development initiative, and support enhancements to Center for Aging Studies marketing efforts.

## 2008 Grant Application Deadlines

The Jewish Heritage Foundation also announces the 2008 grant application deadlines for its two grant categories: grants supporting nonprofit Jewish organizations and grants supporting general community nonprofit organizations.

For nonprofit Jewish nonprofit organizations, both program and core agency support grants are available. **The application deadline is Monday, March 3, 2008.**

For general community nonprofit organizations, two subcategories are available. **The deadline for general community core applications is Monday, May 5, 2008. The Letter of Inquiry deadline for the Older Adult Grant Program is Monday, June 2, 2008.**

For more information about the grant application process, go to [www.jhf-kc.org](http://www.jhf-kc.org).

The Jewish Heritage Foundation of Greater Kansas City was created in 1994 with the sale of Menorah Hospital to Health Midwest. Over the past 14 years, the Foundation has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life to the citizens of the Greater Kansas City metropolitan area through its support of the area agencies who serve them.

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